



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

FEB 3 1970

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Professor Lederberg:


I was unaware that you are so close to my good friend Ron Howard. Is it fair to infer that your writings reflect some contact with his group of decision analysts? If so, that would go far towards explaining why I found your writings so close in spirit to some of my own views. These are most thoroughly set out in my book "Rational Descriptions, Decisions and Designs," which Pergamon has just released. A former student of mine, Fred Offensend, now at Stanford, has been trying to apply these ideas in the analysis of risk at a hospital. Perhaps you know him, too.

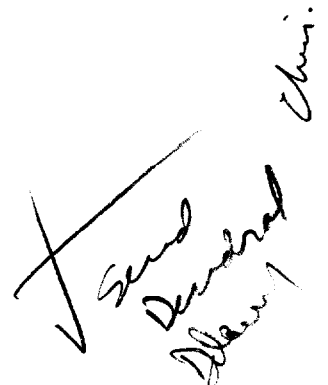
Starr's work is really only a first step, and as such it is an oversimplified treatment of much more complex issues than appear in the paper. At my request the National Academy is trying to generate more interest in this field. The conference to which Starr refers in his letter to you is part of their response.

I have tried to analyze in a simple but formal way, the setting of flammable fabric standards. In due course a paper on that subject will be sent you.

I hope you will let me know when you visit Washington. Meanwhile, thanks for the columns. My staff and I will be studying your suggestions.

Sincerely,


Myron Tribus
Assistant Secretary
for Science and Technology


Send
Dewar
Blawie
Chin.